

## **2014 Environmental Quality Incentive Program**

### **Local Work Group Summary for the Santa Fe Field Office**

#### **Introduction:**

The Santa Fe NRCS Field Office provides service to the Santa Fe – Pojoaque Soil and Water Conservation District is located in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The Santa Fe – Pojoaque Soil and Water Conservation District boundaries consist of the northern three quarters of Santa Fe County, Los Alamos County, and a small area of southern Rio Arriba County. The area includes the cities of Santa Fe and Los Alamos, and four Tribal Governments.

The area within the District is typified by small farms along the tributaries to the Rio Grande in the north and large ranches in the southern part of the district. Crops grown are alfalfa, grass pasture, apples, truck crops and some specialty crops such as flowers.

#### **Local Work Group:**

The Local Work Group held its meeting on **September 11, 2013**.

Invitations to the meeting were sent to individuals, members of State, Federal & local agencies, as well as, Tribal Units of Government.

The Local Work Group members are typically represented by the Santa Fe – Pojoaque SWCD, Farm Service Agency, FSA County Committee, Santa Fe County Commission, Santa Fe County Extension, Santa Fe County Open Space, State Land Office, New Mexico Game and Fish, Santa Cruz Irrigation District, NMDA, BLM, Pojoaque Pueblo, Tesuque Pueblo, Northern Pueblos Agency BIA, and various other entities.

## **Priority Resource Concerns:**

The recommended resource concerns are listed as follows:

### Water Quantity

- Inefficient Water Use on Irrigated Land.
- Excessive Runoff, Flooding or Ponding – All Land Uses.
- Rangeland Hydrologic Cycle – Rangeland, Forest.

### Water Quality

- Excessive Suspended Sediment & Turbidity in Surface Water, All Land Uses.

### Plant Condition

- Productivity, Health & Vigor – All Land Uses.
- Wildfire Hazard – Rangeland, Forest.
- Noxious & Invasive Plants, All Land Uses.

## **Funding Considerations:**

Funds will be distributed to address the priority resource concerns as identified by the Local Work group.

- Irrigated Cropland, Pasture & Hay land – 50 percent
- Rangeland – 30 percent
- Woodland – 20 percent

In the event that dollars remain in any category, the remaining funds will be allocated in direct proportion to the requests received in the other categories.

The ranking criteria will determine the order in which applications are funded. Applications that target identified resource concerns & those that optimize environmental benefits will be given higher priority.

No Cost Caps for practices in FY 2014.

There will be a minimum production requirement of  $\frac{3}{4}$  gallon per minute in order to be considered for financial assistance for practice: Well (642).

**Tiebreaker:** A *Tracking Code* which is a randomly selected number assigned to an application by ProTracts will be used in the event of a tie between applications with the same ranking scores. The application with the highest numbered *Tracking Code* shall receive funding first.

**Payment Rate Factor:**

The Local Work Group recommends continuing with the 75 percent payment rate for all practices.

Please refer to the FY 2014 EQIP cost list for final practice payment rates.

**Ranking Criteria:**

The Santa Fe field office will use the NW Area Ranking Criteria questions and points to address local resource concerns.

Please refer to the ranking criteria links for specific information.

**Watershed Initiative:**

The LWG recommended requesting matching funds for the La Babaria Watershed Initiative for FY 2014.

**Small Acreage Initiative:**

The LWG did not recommend a small acreage initiative for FY 2014.